

Library Bond Act Grant Applications - Cycle 1

Individual Application Summary

<i>Project Name [Number]</i>	Whittier Public Library 1027	<i>Current Square Footage</i>	36,596
<i>Applicant</i>	Whittier, City of	<i>Project Square Footage</i>	74,754
<i>Operating Library Jurisdiction</i>	City of Whittier Public Library	<i>Service Area Population:</i>	85,624
<i>Project Type</i>	New Library		
<i>Project Priority</i>	1st	<i>Anticipated Construction Start Date:</i>	6/1/2004
<i>Joint Use Type</i>	Joint Venture		
<i>Multipurpose?</i>	NO	<i>Total Project Amount</i>	\$28,746,247
<i>Leased Site:</i>	NO	<i>State Grant Amount</i>	\$18,620,061

Bond Act Factors [California Code of Regulations Title 5, Section 19998 (a)]

	Rated	Other
<i>Needs of urban and rural areas:</i>		[see map]
<i>Population growth:</i>		33%
<i>Financial capacity of applicant to open and maintain operation of the library (new libraries only):</i>		Yes
<i>Age and condition of existing library:</i>	Poor Condition (= Very Good)	
<i>Inadequacy of the existing library in meeting needs of residents and the response of proposed project to meeting the needs:</i>	Acceptable	
<i>Plan of Service integrates appropriate electronic technology:</i>	Acceptable	
<i>Appropriateness of proposed site for the proposed project:</i>	Outstanding	
Overall Rating:		Acceptable

Summary of Review Panel Comments

Population Growth 33.4%

Age and Condition The existing library was built in 1959 and was renovated in 1973. Major deficiencies of the current facility: inadequate space for all services and functions; inflexibility due to poured-in-place concrete walls; inability to make necessary infrastructure, ADA, and seismic alterations due to structure; inadequate lighting; inefficient mechanical systems; inadequate acoustical control; inefficient functional/spatial relationships.

Needs of residents/response of proposed project to needs The needs assessment is marginally adequate, including only a listing of demographic information that has not been analyzed to determine specific library service needs. Service needs listed are adequate for most public libraries. The only specific need addressed for K-12 student is a Homework Center, which will be a single room that can be divided to provide separate spaces for elementary and secondary school students.

The plan of service adequately addresses the needs assessment findings. There is a lack of continuity among the planning documents. The plan of service is a restatement of traditional roles currently in practice with an emphasis on the new joint venture. The term "Learning Village" is mentioned throughout the needs assessment and plan of service, but its definition is vague. The reader is uncertain if it is a specific space or if the library is referring to itself as a learning village. Goals and objectives are very general, and service indicators are not included.

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The building program adequately implements the plan of service. There are separate areas for the homework center, computer center, and literacy/tutoring rooms. The literacy/tutoring rooms do not have computers. While technology was mentioned frequently as an important aspect of the new facility, it is not emphasized in the building program. Lack of a detailed table of contents makes the document difficult to use. E.g., the user must thumb through the 230 pages of space sheets to locate a specific space.

The conceptual plans implement most of the requirements of the building program. Not all programmed adjacencies were achieved (e.g., local history is on a separate floor from the reference desk). To access an individual tutoring room, a user will have to walk through the group literacy room, causing disruption to that activity. Not all spaces contain the square footage as programmed (e.g., browsing is approximately 1/2 the programmed size). Actual square footage is shown on the plan in groupings, rather than as the individual spaces detailed in the program, making it possible to review the square footage only generally. Non-assignable square footage is not listed on the drawings. The planning documents mention in more than one place that the proposed site is adequate to provide for a single-story building, but the conceptual plans are for a multi-level facility, which affects staffing and building efficiency.

Joint use agreement: Homework Center, Family Literacy Center, Computer Center, & Career Center: The agreement does not represent a partnership between the two parties. The school district will provide only assistance in recruiting student tutors and will use the library's meeting rooms and other services. The sole responsibility for staffing and operation of the joint use services lies with the city. Tutoring services in the homework center will not be provided evenings and weekends, but are provided by volunteers from the school and community only Monday through Friday from 3:00-7:00 p.m. and Thursdays from 3:00-5:30 p.m.

Plan of Service Integrates Appropriate Technology The technology is implied throughout the planning documents but is not well described. Technology that will be provided is basic, including an integrated Web-based library system with bilingual capability; Internet access, and electronic reference sources. Video conferencing and Web-based training is mentioned briefly, but only in passing.

Appropriateness of Proposed Site The site is located near major thoroughfares in the central business district. The site is accessible by public and private transportation, by bicycle, and by foot. The site will provide ample bicycle parking. The amount of required parking provided is based on mathematical calculations considering maximum use and anticipated mode of arrival at the library. The site is appropriately sized for the current building and parking.

Financial Capacity The applicant has committed to the on-going operation of the completed library.